

Dental Assisting Facts . . .

According to Occupational
Outlook Handbook

Dental assistants work in well
lighted and clean environments.

High school students interested in
dental assisting should take courses
in biology, chemistry, health, and
office practices.

Most dental assistants work in a
private dental office. Some work for
schools and government.

Most dental assistants have a 32 to
40 hour workweek, that may include
Saturdays and evenings.

Dental assistants held
about 229,000 jobs in
1998.



Earnings for the middle 50 percent
was between \$8.94 and \$13.11 an
hour.

Employment is expected to grow
much faster than the average for all
occupations through 2008.

How to Start a Fundamentals of Dental Assisting Course for High School Seniors

1. PDF Download Form 10N: Request
*for a New Secondary Professional-
Technical Education Program* from the
IDPTE Web Site at: [www.pte.state.
id.us](http://www.pte.state.id.us). Go to the Documents section
on the home page and select the
“Applications and Forms” button.
(Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader)
2. Complete all sections of Form 10N,
including:
Cover Sheet
Program Narrative
Equipment and Tool List
Budget Sheet
Course Outline.
3. Get superintendent signatures on
front of Form 10N and send before
Feb 14th of each funding year to:

SeAnne Safaii
Health Professions Program
Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education

650 W. State Street, Room 324
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0095
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How To Start a Fundamentals of Dental Assisting Course for High School Seniors in Idaho



What is a Dental Assistant?

Dental assistants work with dentists during treatment of clients. They become the dentist's second pair of hands. Responsibilities include chair-side assistant, lab technician and front office assistant.

About the Fundamentals of Dental Assisting High School Course

This course covers the basics of dental assisting that qualifies a person for entry level employment in Idaho's dental practices.

This two semester course involves one period of instruction each day of the week. The first semester covers mostly theory while the second semester focuses on clinical procedures, including 30 hours of clinical education.

This course is an excellent way for high school seniors to learn about the health professions, including information about advanced education including expanded functions in dental assisting, careers in dental lab, dental hygiene or dentistry.

Curriculum

Didactic (Theory)

- Introduction to the Dental Profession
- Dentistry and the Law
- Dental Terminology
- Preventative Oral Health
- Infection Control
- Patient Management
- Anatomy
- Dental Equipment
- Dental Instruments and Procedures
- Clinical Records
- Dental Pathology
- Emergency Care
- Dental Anesthesia
- Chair-Side Assisting
- Dental Materials
- Introduction to Dental Radiography

Clinical Procedures

- Disclosing
- Brushing
- Flossing
- Vital Signs Measurement
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Treatment Room Breakdown
- Ergonomics for the Dental Assistant
- Mounting Radiographs
- Dental Lab Polishing
- Working With Alginate
- Working With Plaster
- Chart Entry and Recording
- Diagnostic Cast Procedure

Course Prerequisites

High school seniors who have successfully completed the classroom-based Orientation to Health Occupations course or the Fundamentals for Health Professions Internet course are eligible to enroll in the Fundamentals of Dental Assisting course.

College Credit

Students that complete this course may be eligible for college credit at participating postsecondary dental assisting programs.

Instructor Qualifications

Instructors of this course must be Certified Dental Assistants or higher. Also, they must be certified as secondary professional-technical educators by the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education.